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M.L.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:  
Dr. Hans-Joachim Muschenborn §  
Serial No.: Unknown § Docket No.: 12964.20  
Filed: Herewith § Group Art Unit: Unknown  
For: PROTECTION OF SECURITY CRITICAL §  
DATA IN NETWORKS § Examiner: Unknown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above application please enter the following:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page 1 to read:

A1 This application claims priority under German Patent application number 199 61 399.0 filed on December 20, 1999.

\* In the claims:

Please amend the following claims:

A2  
Cm.<sup>t</sup> 4. (Amended) Network system according to [one of] claim[s] 1[ to 3], wherein the central unit ZE stores authorization data AD and wherein at least one peripheral thread after connecting to the central process Z on ZE transmits access data to Z, and wherein Z checks the access rights of the peripheral process by checking said access data against said authentication data AD, and wherein Z terminates the connection to said peripheral process if the result of said check of said access rights is negative.

5. (Amended) Network system according to [one of] claims 1[ to 3], wherein at least one Unit AE directly or indirectly physically connected with central unit ZE stores authorization data AD and wherein AE executes at least one authorization thread AS able to build-up or accept a standing logical connection to or from Z, and wherein at least one peripheral thread after build-up of the connection to central process Z sends Z access data, and wherein Z receives said access data and forwards said access